THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decentralization of Telecommunications Department

377. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to decentralise the Telecommunications Department:

(b) if so, what would be the modalities thereof: and

(c) in what way the decentralisation will benefit the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir, Government proposes to give more powers to the field units with the view to make them more competitive with private sector.

(b) and (c) The case is under consideration of the Government.

Additional free cals fol subscribers in Delhi and Bombay

378. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry or the MTNL have evaluated the effect on the generation of additional revenue due to timing of local calls in Delhi and Bombay:

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to pass on the benefit to the subscribers by allowing them additional calls over the 150 allowed free, for the bi-monthly rental of Rs. 380/-;

(d) if so, the details thereof: and

(e) what are the reasons for not allowing additional 20 calls to compensate for wrong connections, as was done earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION. (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Does not arise since there was no system earlier for allowing additional calls to compensate for wrong connections.

Waiting list for telephone sonneltons in Janakpuri Exchange

379. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Janakpuri, exchange in Delhi has notified the clearance of applications for general telephone connections made upto 31st December, 1990;

(b) whether it is a fact that some applications made in 1989 have not been cleared, whereas a number of applications made during 1991 and 1992 have been cleared;

(c) the number of applications made prior to 31st December, 1990 still pending and those made after 1st December. 1990 cleared, and the latest date upto which applications have been cleared;

(d) whether any action against the officers responsible for these irregularities has been taken; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the date of clearance for N-OYT General

Category in Janakpuri exchange is 4·1·94·

(b) No, Sir, All applications registered in Janakpuri exchange upto 4-1-94 save been cleared. Few cases involving are a transfer from other exchanges were pending and these also have been cleared now· Telephones are being provided subject to areas being technically feasible.

(c) All applications upto 4·1·94 have been cleared·

(d) and (e) Not applicable in view of (b) and (c) above.

Irregularities in the bids for cellular phone system

380· SHRI S· S· AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the series of reports which appeared in the Statesman on February 11 and 12, 1995, highlighting the irregularities in deciding the bids for operation of cellular phone system in Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have issued any rebuttal to the said reports;

(d) if not, the contents thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of steps taken, if any, to ensure transparency in the process of considering and finalisation of tender bids for cellular phones and other modernisation programmes of DOT in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allegations made in the said reports are not correct·

(c) No, Sir·

(d) Does not arise in view of (C)·

(e) The criteria of evaluation laid down by the Deptt· of Telecom· as examined in detail by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the basis of petitions made by some of the unsuccessful bidders· The Hon'ble Courts had upheld the criteria for evaluation and selection· The orders given by the Courts were duly implemented while awarding the contract.

(f) The parameters for evaluation of tenders have been clearly specified in the bid document.

Villages without post offices

381. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages are there in each State without Post Offices, state-wise,

(b) how many Post Offices were closed down by Government in each state in the past, State-wise;

(c) how many were rural Post Offices among them, State-wise;

(d) by when, each village in the country will have a Post Office;

(e) whether Government would employ jobless educated youth as part-time postal employees in those villages without Post Offices; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The information is given in the Statement. (*See* below).